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[San Francisco (Calif) Planning Commission]

LOCAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

March 28, 1995

Dear Community Member or Organization:

A few days ago you received a notification about the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the Systems Plan for the Norcal Complex at Beatty Road and Tunnel Avenue, at the San Francisco-Brisbane border. One part of the Systems Plan concerns the proposed expansion of the existing Household Hazardous Waste Facility. As the notice indicated, there will be formal public hearings on this DEIR on **April 18 (6:30 pm at the Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Ave) and April 20 (at the Planning Commission, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 428).**

Because of State of California regulations (the Tanner Act) and community interest in hazardous waste facilities, in 1993, the San Francisco Planning Commission appointed a seven member advisory committee. This Committee is known as the Local Assessment Committee (LAC) because it is charged with assessing community concerns about the proposed expansion of the hazardous waste facility and recommending/negotiating means to address such concerns. As one of the founders of the Little Hollywood Association, I have served as chair of the Committee and Clara Johnson, the Mayor of Brisbane is the vice chair. The Committee has technical consultants who have assisted us in reviewing information on the project, including background information for the Environmental Impact Report.

Since 1993, the LAC has met regularly. We usually meet in the vicinity of the proposed expansion. Some of our Committee members previously served in an advisory capacity for San Francisco's Hazardous Waste Management Plan. The LAC has asked many questions and have received a great deal of information on the proposed facility. We would therefore like to share with you a summary of some of the key facts we have learned about the project. **We would also like to extend an invitation to attend our next meeting -- April 4 at 7 pm at the Korean Church in Little Hollywood, 120 Lathrop Avenue --** as we focus and draft our testimony on physical environmental effects of the hazardous waste component of the Systems Plan EIR and appropriate mitigations. The LAC also plans to develop separate recommendations on some concerns which are not a part of the prescribed contents of an EIR.

If you are planning to comment on the hazardous waste component of the EIR, or have other concerns about the hazardous waste project not normally addressed in an EIR, we think reading the enclosed fact sheets and attending our meeting may be helpful to you.

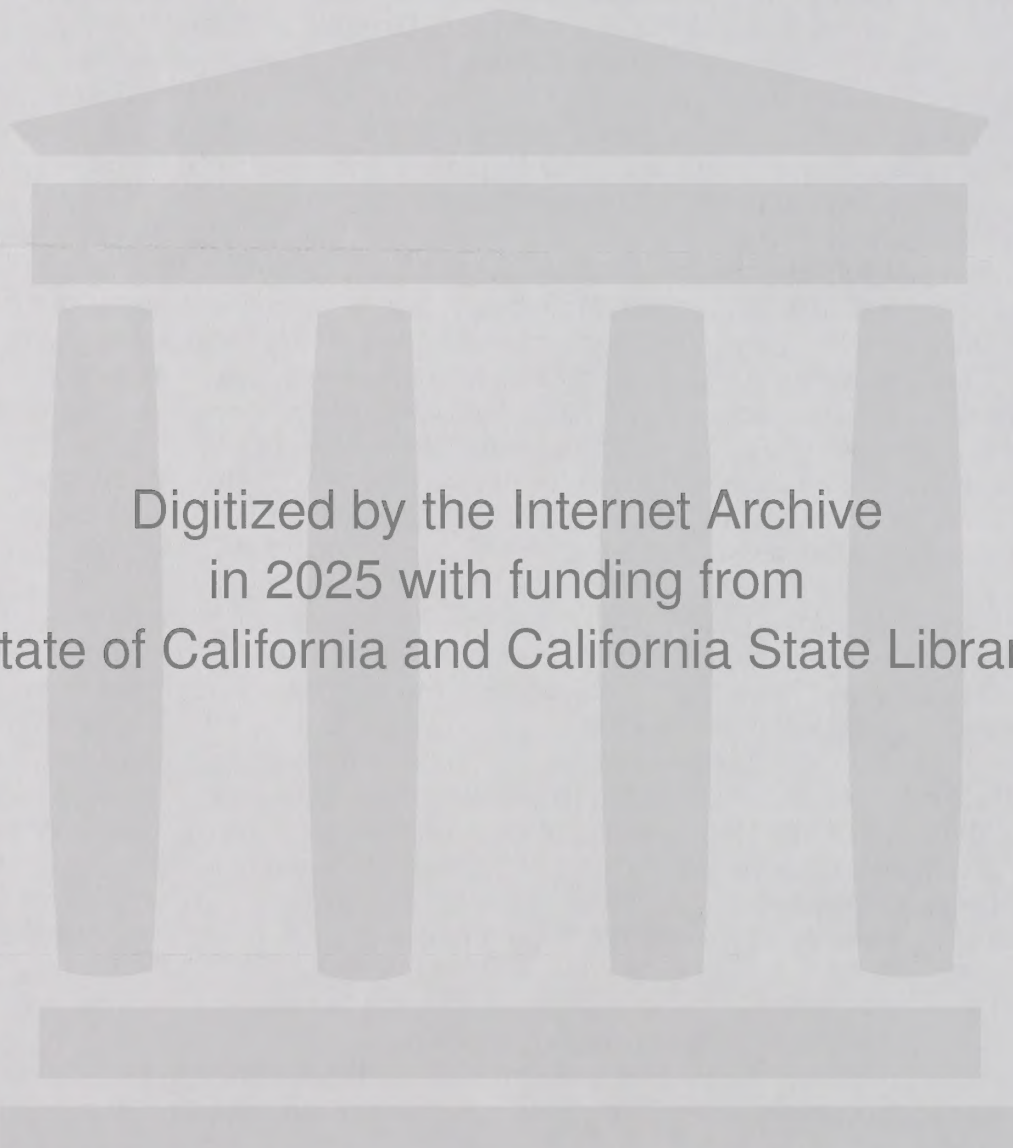
Sincerely,

Don Bertone

Don Bertone
Chair, Local Assessment Committee
467-9669

Encls: fact sheets

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Hazardous Waste Facility Project Summary

Since 1988 San Francisco's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility has been open three days a week for City residents to bring household hazardous waste for free. Technicians unload waste, package it into drums, and arrange shipments of waste from the facility.

The facility consists of a single storage building, 30 x 80 feet within a fenced yard. It is divided into two rooms; the east room is half the size of the west room. The east room is used for supplies and as a laboratory. The larger west room is divided into three storage bays, which are used to store waste according to their hazards: acids, bases, and flammables. Wastes are stored for a maximum of 90 days or a year, according to the waste type and government approvals. Some usable products, e.g., latex paint, are given to the public. All other wastes are shipped off to recycling or disposal facilities.

In 1992, the facility started a pilot program that allows qualifying small businesses to use the facility on special days. To qualify for the program, a business must generate less than 27 gallons of waste per month. These businesses must make an appointment and pay a fee.

Proposed Changes

Sanitary Fill Company, the owner of the facility, is proposing to expand and upgrade it to accommodate increasing participation by San Francisco residents on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The proposal also includes a permanent service for small businesses on Monday, Tuesday, and/or Wednesday.

To handle the increase in waste at the facility, the following are being proposed:

Offices. Build a new control building with office space, locker rooms and meeting rooms for employees.

Loading Dock and Canopy. Build a covered vehicle unloading area to protect the public and employees from the weather; build a new loading dock to increase efficiency for shipments of waste from the facility.

Laboratory. Build a separate laboratory building for analyzing unlabelled wastes delivered to the facility.

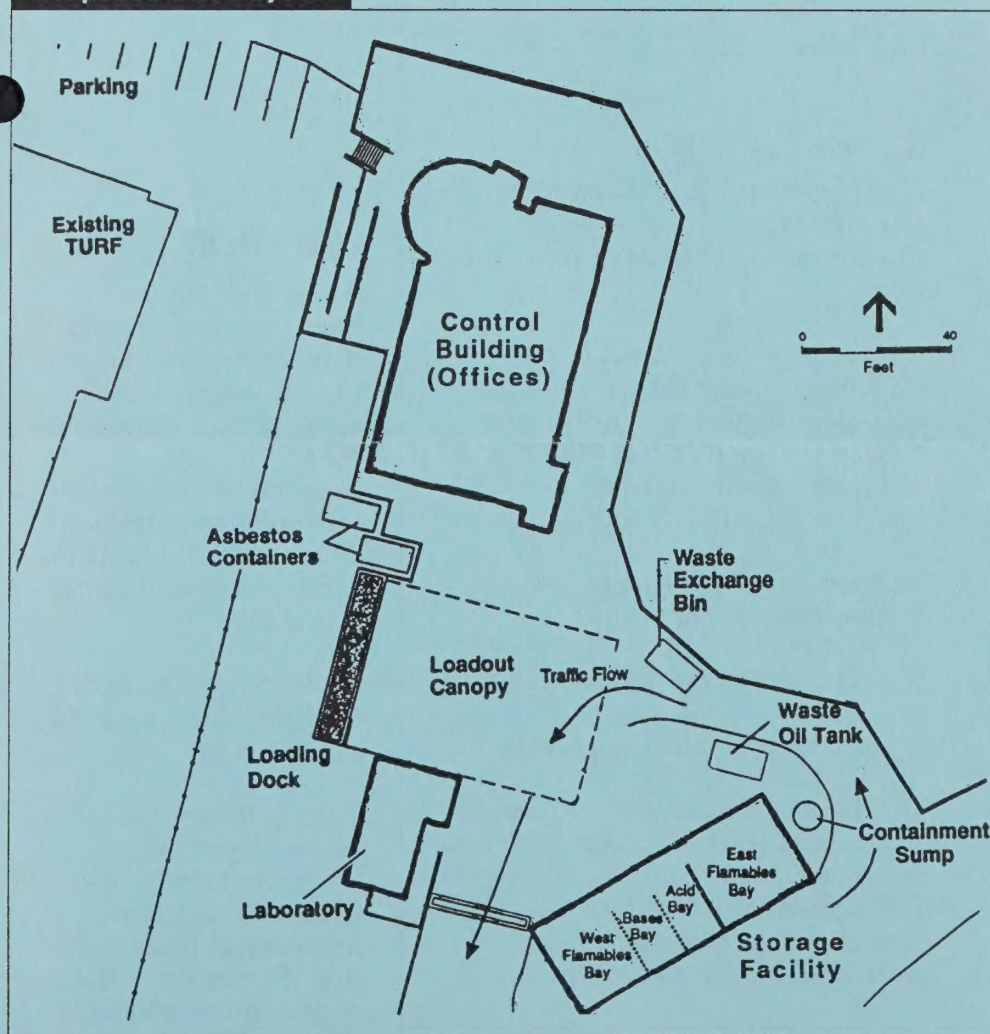
Storage. Convert the existing laboratory and supply storage space to a waste handling area called the East Flammables Bay; install shelving in the storage building to increase storage capacity.

Packaging. To increase efficiency, bulk more wastes into drums, rather than simply placing unopened containers in drums with absorbent.

Treatment. To save on costs, recycle more wastes and treat some wastes at the facility.

Emissions Controls. Install filters on the vents from the facility to minimize the chemicals emitted from waste handling.

Proposed Site Layout



The storage facility on this map currently exists. The proposal is to build a new control building, loadout area, and laboratory to the northwest of the current facility. (This area is now the Public Disposal Area.)

Important Information about the Hazardous Waste Facility Project is Available to the Public

Health Risk Assessment

What Is It?

This document presents estimates of the potential risks to public health that could be associated with the chemical emissions from normal operations at the hazardous waste facility.

The risks are estimated for the current and future operations (if the project is implemented). The difference between the current and future risk, called the Net Change in Risk, is also calculated.

The Health Risk Assessment was written by a consultant hired by Sanitary Fill Company according to guidelines agreed upon by city and state agencies.

The report was published in June 1994. The report's Final Addendum was published in February 1995.

What's In the Report?

The Health Risk Assessment describes the expansion project and the methods used to calculate health risks to people who live or work near the facility.

Calculations are based on the amount and types of waste handled at the facility and chemicals that might be emitted from the facility during normal operations.

The calculations use computer modeling, data related to wind speed and direction, and data related to the toxicity of chemicals.

The final addendum responds to comments submitted by city agencies and other people who reviewed the drafts of the report.

Copies of these documents are available for review at San Francisco Department of City Planning (at 1660 Mission Street) and at these other locations:

San Francisco Libraries
Main Library
Bayview Branch
Visitacion Valley Branch

Brisbane
Brisbane City Library
Brisbane Fire Station

Call John Billovits at City Planning if you have more questions: 415/558-6390

Accident Analysis

What Is It?

The purpose of this analysis is to assess the risk of accidents at the hazardous waste facility.

It is also used to support the environmental evaluations in the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the proposed upgrade of the entire solid waste and recycling center.

Another important purpose of the report is to provide information to emergency agencies, such as the fire department, about how potential accidents could affect services they provide.

The Accident Analysis was published in February 1995 and was prepared according to the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan by a consultant hired by the City's Planning Department.

What's In the Report?

The Accident Analysis contains a description of the project and background material about hazardous substances.

A number of possible accident types are presented, and the risks associated with them are discussed in terms of *probability* (whether they are likely to occur) and the *consequences* (what would occur) for each accident type.

Separate sections highlight two specific areas of concern:

1. Accidents During Transportation
2. Earthquake-Induced Accidents

The document looks at the causes of accidents (such as human error, equipment failure, or external events) and suggests ways to reduce the risks through design changes or by modifying facility procedures.

What's Next?

Along with the Environmental Impact Report, these two reports will be reviewed by City agencies, the general public, the Local Assessment Committee, and the Committee's technical consultants for completeness and sound methodology.

Reviewers will consider the risk values presented in the report.

They will recommend ways to lower risks or otherwise identify the terms and conditions necessary to make the risks acceptable to the surrounding community.

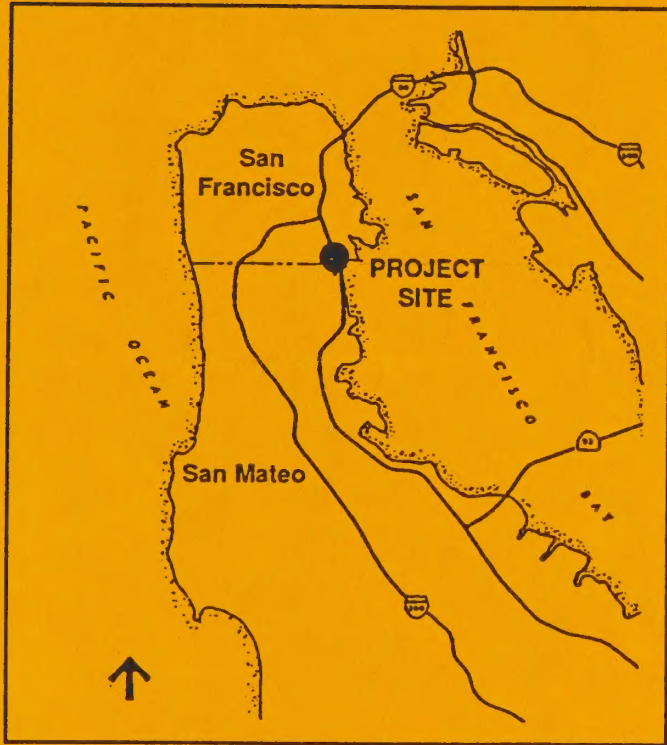
PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY

Project Description

The San Francisco Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling Center is located across the freeway from Candlestick Park. This facility is owned and operated by Sanitary Fill Company (SFC), a subsidiary of Norcal Systems, Inc. In 1988, SFC and the City and County of San Francisco opened the nation's first permanent household hazardous waste collection facility on this site. Three days per week, city residents may bring unwanted household chemicals, such as paint, oil, pesticides, and solvents, to the facility. Here, the waste is sorted and packed to be shipped off site for recycling, treatment, incineration, or disposal.

As part of a larger plan to upgrade recycling and waste management operations, SFC is proposing to

- Expand the existing household hazardous waste facility
- Add a similar program for small businesses such as painting contractors and print shops



Sanitary Fill Company's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

Local Assessment Committee (LAC)

City residents are encouraged to bring questions and concerns about the proposed expansion of the hazardous waste facility to a committee appointed by the City Planning Commission. The Local Assessment Committee will advise the Commission on the terms and conditions by which the project would be acceptable to the surrounding neighborhoods and to the larger community.

The LAC has seven members, appointed to represent the community-at-large (three members), environmental or public interest groups (two members), and affected businesses or industries (two members). The committee meets once a month; meeting places vary but are usually in the immediate neighborhood of the facility. Meetings are open to the public.

To learn more about this project and about how you can direct your comments, call

(415) 558-6319 Lois Scott, City Planning

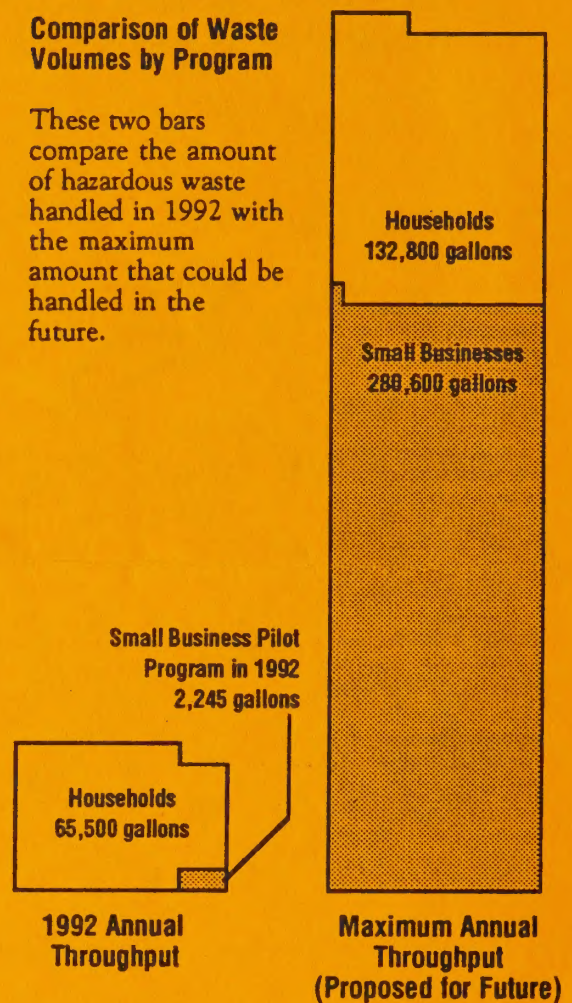
Waste Groups and Examples

Group	Example
Corrosive Materials	Muriatic acid (cement cleaner)
	Carpet cleaner
	Ammonia window cleaner
Oxidizers	Nitric acid
	Bleach
	Hydrogen peroxide
Flammable Liquid	Paint thinner
	Dry cleaning solvent
	Wood preservatives, herbicides
Poisons	Ant killer
	Metal plating solutions
Flammable Solids	Adhesives
	Roofing tar
Dangerous When Wet	Calcium carbide
Organic Peroxides	Acne medicine
Miscellaneous	Garden fungicide
	Fluorescent light ballasts
Combustibles	Motor oil
	Oil base paint
Recyclable	Latex paint
	Car batteries
Inhalation	Heating duct insulation
Photochemicals	Stop bath
	Activator
Aerosols	Spray paint
	Insecticide

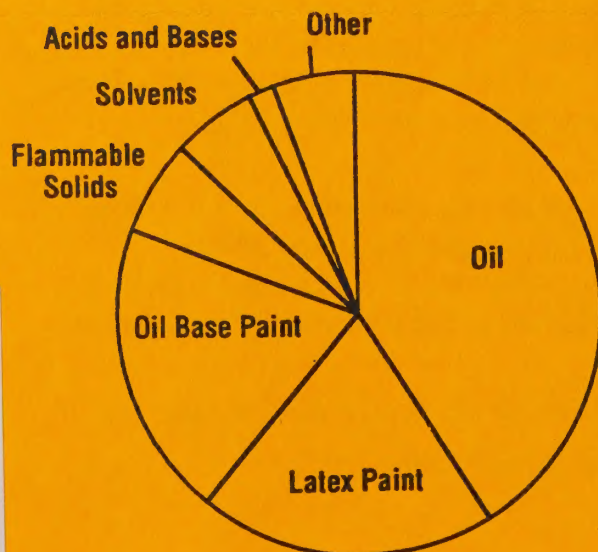
Comparison of Waste Volumes by Program

Comparison of Waste Volumes by Program

These two bars compare the amount of hazardous waste handled in 1992 with the maximum amount that could be handled in the future.



Households Breakdown of Waste Types



Small Businesses Breakdown of Waste Types

